Microbiologists and laboratory technicians of the Institute have been trained on sero-diagnosis at National Institute of mental health and Neuro Science, Bangalore.

The supply of IgM ELISA test kits for diagnosis of Chikungunya to the institute has been made through National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Establishment of a field station of National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune at Allapuzha is also proposed.

Treatment of infertility with Letrozole

1239. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women in the country being treated for infertility with 'Letrozole' could be running the risk of damaging themselves and their babies;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has any mechanism in place to contain the use of the medicines meant for women and children which ignore the need for safety, side effects, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to discourage the use of the above medicine; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Safety and efficacy of letrozole for its use in induction of ovulation in anovulatory infertility, has been evaluated and based on favourable safety and efficacy data, the drug has been approved for induction of ovulation in anovulatory infertility as per Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

Business of spurious medicines in the country

†1240. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the claim made by the Indian Medical Association that the business of spurious and adulterated medicines has reached upto Rs. 7000 crores and its network has spread upto nine States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is going to take any concrete steps to check this highly serious crime;

(d) whether any steps have been taken as controlling measures in association with the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The claim made by the Indian Medical Association is based on news and media reports. The Indian Medical Association has stated that 35% of drugs in the country (being allegedly spurious), is based on a WHO report in 'Business Line Financial Daily, which the WHO has denied. The IMA has also stated that the monetary value of spurious drugs is derived from a news of sting operation of Aaj Tak T.V. Channel.

(c) to (e) All manufacturing and sale of drugs is controlled under the various provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules there under. The manufacture of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity generally indulged in by unlicensed manufacturers and when they are detected, action is taken as per law.

A Bill has already been introduced in the Parliament to provide stricter penalties, provision for special courts for speedy trial of drug related offences, compounding offences authorizing the Police also to file prosecution for drugs related offences and making all such offences congnizable and non-bailable.

Cases of Dengue and Chikungunya in Delhi

†1241. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of Dengue and Chikungunya have increased in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the effective measures being taken by Government for prevention of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total number of cases reported due to Dengue and Chikungunya in Delhi during the year 2007 upto 29.10.2007 are 392 and 153 respectively. During 2006, 2640 cases of Dengue and 425 cases of Chikungunya were reported upto corresponding period.

Abortion of female foetuses

1242. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study, 10 million female foetuses were aborted in India, over the last two decade;

(b) if so, what is official estimate thereof;

(c) what is the present gender scenario in the country/States; and which are the worst States/districts;

(d) what steps are being taken by Centre to eschew gender imbalance;

(e) FIRs registered, challanged and convicted for violation of PC & PNDT Act, in the country/States and the details of their disposal; and

(f) whether Government considers the above punitive scenario as satisfactory?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.